

Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEAE-00 AID-05 AGR-10 EB-07 PA-02 PRS-01

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 INRE-00 SS-15 SSO-00 NSC-05

NSCE-00 L-03 IGA-02 COME-00 TRSE-00 /068 W

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5389

INFO USIA WASHDC

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

UNCLAS NEW DELHI 5729

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IN, BG

SUBJECT: PRESS COVERAGE ON PL-480 ACCORD

BEGIN SUMMARY: THE DELHI MORNING PRESS APRIL 20 GAVE LIMITED PLAY TO A REUTERS WASHINGTON-DATELINED REPORT STRESSING THAT INDIA HAS REACHED A "TENTATIVE AGREEMENT" WITH THE U.S UNDER WHICH IT WILL RECEIVE ABOUT 4000,000 TONS OF AMERICAN WHEAT AND 100,000 TONS OF RICE ON "LONG -TERM LOW-INTEREST CREDIT TERMS, OFFICIAL SOURCES SAID." END SUMMARY.

1. THREE OUT OF EIGHT ENGLISH-LANGUAGE DAILIES CARRIED THE STORY. THE INDIAN EXPRESS ACCORDED IT LEAD NEWS SPOT WITH HEADLINE: " US TO GIVE INDIA 5 LAKH TONNES OF GRAINS ON LOW-INTEREST CREDIT." HEADLINES IN THE TIMES OF INDIA AND PATRIOT READ: " ACCORD WITH U.S. ON FOOD AID" AND "5 LAKH TONNES OF U.S. GRAIN FOR INDIA." OTHER PAPERS , INCLUDING TWO ECONOMIC DAILIES --ECONOMIC TIMES AND FINANCIAL EXPRESS-DID NOT CARRY THE ITEM.

2. REPORTAGE QUOTED " OFFICIAL SOURCES" SAYING IT COULD BE ANOTHER WEEK BEFORE DETAILS WERE FINALIZED

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AND THE ACCORD SIGNED.

3. UNDERSCORING THAT WASHINGTON WANTED INDIA TO TAKE 200,000 TONS OF RICE "TO ENSURE ITS RICE SHIPMENT TARGET THIS YEAR," STORY ADDED THAT THE FORD ADMINISTRATION, "PARTLY IN AN ATTEMPT TO DISPOSE OF LARGE RICE SURPLUS," AIMS AT SHIPPING A TOTAL OF " AT LEAST " 850,000 TONS OF RICE ABROAD THIS YEAR UNDER THE AID PROGRAM, " AT THE SAME TIME, U.S. WHEAT EXPORTS HAVE TO BE BOOSTED THIS SEASON SINCE THEY ARE BELOW OFFICIALLY PROJECTED LEVELS."

4. STORY CONCLUDED THAT "OFFICIAL SOURCES" HAVE INDICATED THAT THE RICE TARGET SET OUT IN THE PL-480 AGREEMENT "COULD STILL BE ACHIEVED EVEN THOUGH INDIA APPARENTLY WOULD BE TAKING ONLY 100,000 TONS."SAXBE

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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